



Volume 23

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

May - June 2014

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

Field Day 2014

It's that time of the year again, Summer is here and for radio amateurs Field Day marks the beginning of summer. Field Day is a time for amateur radio operators to demonstrate their preparedness for times of emergency by setting up their gear in remote locations or running their existing gear off auxiliary power, and to make as many contacts in the specified time period. While Field Day is not a contest it is an exercise to communicate and pass information between operators.

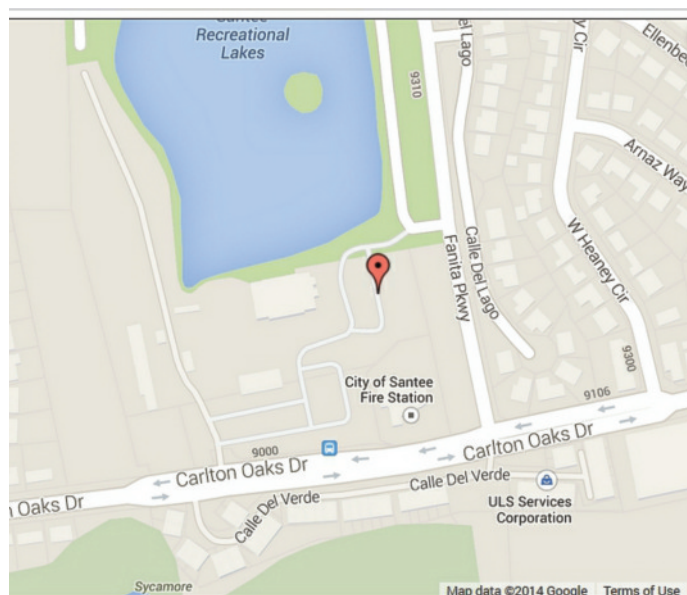
ARCEC will be holding Field Day at the same location we have for the last few years. Come and join us spend some time operating or just enjoying the company of your fellow amateur radio operators. We will be setting up on Friday starting at 1:00 PM, we will meet at the shed. Field Day begins at 11:00 AM on Saturday until 1:59 PM on Sunday. We hope to see you at;

Administration Building for Santee Lakes in the parking lot.

9310 Fanita Pkwy Santee, CA 92071

Talk in: WA6BGS Repeater.

All visitors are welcome! For more information Contact Dave Ward at; (619)255-6833



The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has started a code practice group on the WA6BGS repeater. The code practice group is off to a good start, below is Mark's description of the group and its intended format.

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 222.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



"The Morse Code practice Group as visualized will consist of a primary operator sending morse code character groups of varying length and sizes via a PC Program called "Just Learn Morse Code" that allows many options in actual speed, character speed, and character spacing in an infinitely variable pattern. The group will be a controlled net operation, with all members doing a casual check-in process only for personal demographics, not a continuing user list.

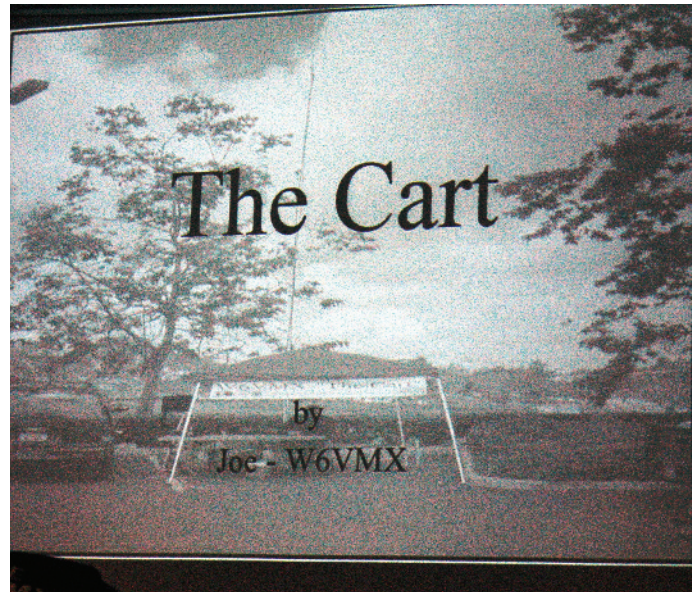
Loose planning will ensure user effectiveness. The schedule of 3 time weekly practice is so people that are really interested can retain and augment their skills on a regular basis, and not lose all they learned by waiting a week. Personal use of Just Learn Morse Code program will also be encouraged.

The groups schedule is Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 7pm local time. On The ARCEC Repeater 147.420/146.475 107.2 pl .I planned the schedule around the presently operating nets and as sole operator, I can and will cease operations whenever necessary to circumstances."

May And June Meeting Highlights

At our May meeting Joe Bennett W6VMX gave a presentation on his self contained communications cart, simply called The Cart. The Cart is a modified garden cart that is fitted with an enclosure, outriggers, and a mast mount for antennas. The Cart is a self contained source of power, made up of solar panels, batteries, an inverter and a charge controller for the batteries. The Cart has been seen at Operating events, and at the SOBARS Field Day site. A substantial mast can be erected which will support small beams, wire antennas and verticals.

Joe goes into great detail on the origin of The Cart from his pre-ham days when he photographed golf courses, and homes that were for sale. The Cart came into being due to changes in FAA regulations that prohibited using model aircraft for profit. The Cart originally held a



camera atop its mast used for photographing real estate. When Joe earned his amateur radio license the cart was re-purposed, upgraded to its current form and now is a very capable tool for Field Day, and emergency communications.

The June club meeting was dominated by Field Day Peter Krause KJ6VCM, Field Day committee leader provided details for, when, where, and what is needed for Field Day. Peter also put a call for CW operators.

Pat WA6MHZ gave a presentation of Field Days past and an overview of our Field Day site. Pat provided plenty of visual media in a

Also at the June meeting Daniel Warner KJ6IOB gave a presentation on Ham Radio Deluxe and DM780 which was quite informative. This was a mini-presentation and packed with much useful information.

I want to take a moment to apologize for not having any pictures from the June meeting. Either the camera or the photographer was on the blink. My money is on the photographer malfunctioning. The pictures were not of usable quality. We shall do better in July.

A Great Day For Ham Radio

*By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
Edited by Sue Robins AF6LJ*

April 26 was the big Bi-Annual Operating Day at Fry's Electronics in in Murphy Canyon. Meanwhile up in San Marcos was a simultaneous event sponsored by the Palomar Radio Club. This event was sponsored by The San Diego Six Shooters Club, probably the most active club in the south county.



The day began early with Mike KG6TDP who arrived early at the house to pick up the club 100 FT Tower Trailer. I was supposed to follow him right down to Fry's, but as I neared Fry's, I found I had left the keys to open the Trailer boxes at the house. So I had to drive all the way back to Crest to get them!!! The extra trip back home delayed things considerably. But I finally made it after driving like crazy down I-8 at well over 80 mph! I just hate being late!

Once there, work started on the Trailer to get the antenna on it.



Soon the 3 element tribander was on the tower, and we were ready to raise the tower to its operating position. It was still very windy from the storm that had gone through the night before so we didn't crank the tower all the way up. 40 ft was quite enough.



Work proceeded on the booths. There was probably well over a dozen Ham clubs that set up really spectacular displays, of course being President of the ARC of El Cajon, I was most involved with this booth.



And of course I had to bring some Vintage radios from the Crest Radio Museum

There was only enough room on my flimsy portable table for the Hallicrafters SR-2000 and a 1932 Philco 80 Cathedral which was playing throughout the event

SANDARC is the Council of All the area Ham clubs. Here past Chair and now Secretary Mike Maston N6OPH is helping publicize the Upcoming ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in September (Mike is the Chairman of that convention!).

Joe W6VMX had his famous Wagon car holding up a 30 ft mast with antennas, all self contained, a beautiful unit!



Probably the most spectacular setup was the ARES trailer with dual Pneumatic towers. On the left is Steve Early ARRL San Diego Section Manager.

Below that is the view of the ARES trailer from our booth.



A very welcome visitor was Mark KB6PJU, noted DXer and neighbor of only about 2 blocks away in Crest. His wife Terry K6TRY made some wonderful Chocolate chip cookies which I ate many of, they can be seen just over his left shoulder.

San Diego T Hunters were there conducting transmitter hunts all day.



A view down radio row showing the booths and portable setups..



And more from the T-Hunters.

The event was a success in spite of the windy conditions. Members of the public came by and who knows there might be a few new Hams thanks to this event and those who took part.

Santee Street Fair

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

On the weekend of June 30th ARCEC members participated in the Santee Street Fair demonstrating amateur radio to fair attendees. A number of clubs in cooperation with SANDARC had a booth with operational gear along with plenty of helpful hams to answer questions and hand out club literature. There was a good turn out according to participants.

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise send that content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.



The 2014 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention is to be held September 12-14 at the Four Points By Sheraton. For more information visit; <http://www.sandarc.net/>

Hope to see you there.

Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings and from the club website. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand. For more information regarding our club shirts see; <http://wa6bgs.us/2013-club-shirts-and-jackets/>